

International Trade Finance professional qualifications



“ The preparation for CDCS and the case study on trade enriched my knowledge with useful information which helped me to solve issues that incurred at work quickly and firmly. CDCS helped me to get a salary raise and also a good reputation at the bank. ”

Nguyen Thi Phuong Nga,
CDCS student from Vietnam

Our trade finance qualifications are worldwide benchmarks in the industry. The topics of International Trade and Finance, Documentary Credits and Demand Guarantees provide specialist knowledge to display capability, aid efficiency and enable progression in the workplace.

These qualifications have been developed in close partnership with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the world's authority on international trade policy and practice.

Delivering Trade Finance qualifications since

1999

* Results collected from recent surveys of our Trade Finance students.



Students are currently studying our Trade Finance qualifications in over 90 countries worldwide

Certificate in International Trade and Finance (CITF®)

CITF provides trade, export and commodity specialists with a thorough understanding of the products, documents, trade terms, roles and responsibilities that underpin international trade and finance.

This qualification combines the acquisition of technical knowledge with the skills to apply this to situations in the workplace. Through completion of CITF you will attain a qualification which demonstrates expertise and enhances career potential.

CITF develops core knowledge and understanding of the following areas:

- The trade environment and the role of the ICC
- ICC international model contracts
- An introduction to trade terms and Incoterms®
- The nature of financial, commercial and transport documents used in international trade
- Risk and mitigation including foreign exchange hedging
- Methods of payment including open account, collections, documentary credits and bank payment obligations
- Short, medium and long term trade finance
- Islamic trade finance
- Dispute handling, arbitration and resolution
- Fraud prevention and anti-money laundering

Qualification Assessment

2-hour exam split into two sections:

Section A - 80 multiple-choice questions

Section B - 4 case studies, each with 5 linked multiple-choice questions

After completing CITF:

You will be able to use the designation 'CITF' after your name.

- Exams are held in April and October each year
- Comprehensive learning materials including detailed study text, study resources, student handbook and specimen paper available to download
- Examined in over 40 different countries worldwide
- Upon completion, you are able to use the 'CITF' designation after your name

“ CITF covers all parts in international trade such as collections, documentary letters of credit, trade finance and export credit insurance. I work in a bank and I value this knowledge very much. I now know the underpinning rules and can complete the work to a much higher level. ”

CITF student from China

88%

of our students said CITF is beneficial to their organisation*

Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialists (CDCS®)



CDCS enables documentary credit practitioners to demonstrate practical knowledge and understanding of the complex issues associated with documentary credit practice.

It is the professional qualification recognised worldwide as the benchmark of competence for international practitioners. CDCS provides the skills required to perform effectively in a fast-paced commercial international trade environment.

CDCS develops core knowledge and understanding of the following areas:

- Types, characteristics and uses of documentary and standby letters of credit
- Rules and trade terms
- Parties to documentary credit transactions and their roles and obligations
- Types and methods of payment / credit used in documentary credit transactions
- Types of transport, commercial and financial documents used in documentary credit transactions
- Related products including letters of indemnity
- Implications of breaching rules including money laundering and terrorist financing

Qualification Assessment

3-hour exam split into two sections:

Section A - 60 multiple-choice questions

Section B - 10 multiple-choice questions, 3 in-basket exercises each with 5 linked multiple-choice questions and 3 simulation exercises

After completing CDCS:

You will be able to use the designation 'CDCS' after your name for three years and be included on the CDCS Registry.

You can renew your designation after three years by committing to an ongoing programme of continuing professional development (CPD) and achieving personal development units (PDU's) for maintaining and enhancing your knowledge in International Trade. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can register to resit the exam at the end of the three year period.

Upon completing the recertification cycle five times, you will be designated 'CDCS Advocate'.

- Exams are held in April and October each year
- Comprehensive learning materials including detailed study text, study resources, student handbook and specimen paper available to download
- Examined in over 40 different countries worldwide
- Upon completion, you are able to use the 'CDCS' designation after your name

92%

of our students said CDCS has helped their professional development/career prospects*

Certificate for Specialists in Demand Guarantees (CSDG®)

CSDG has been designed to enable demand guarantee professionals to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise.

The qualification will develop students' understanding in the use of guarantees, industry rules, legislation and the challenges relating to demand guarantees and standby credits. CSDG enables students to demonstrate a high level of expertise and improves knowledge and understanding of the complex issues associated with demand guarantee best practice.

CSDG develops the core knowledge and understanding of the following areas:

- Demand guarantees – including tender, performance and advance payment
- Indemnities, Suretyships and standby letters of credit and how they compare
- Scope of industry rules including URDG 758 and ISP 98
- Parties involved in demand guarantees and their roles and obligations
- Risk issues including types, control and mitigations
- Impact of external factors including governing law and force majeure

Qualification Assessment

3-hour exam split into two sections

Section A - 50 multiple-choice questions

Section B - 10 multiple-choice questions, 1 case study with 6 linked multiple-choice questions and 6 simulation exercises

After completing CSDG:

You will be able to use the designation 'CSDG' after your name for three years and be included on the CSDG Registry.

You can renew your designation after three years by committing to an ongoing programme of continuing professional development (CPD) and achieving personal development units (PDU's) for maintaining and enhancing your knowledge in International Trade. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can register to resit the exam at the end of the three year period.

- Exams are held in April and October each year
- Comprehensive learning materials including detailed study text, study resources, student handbook and specimen paper available to download
- Examined in over 40 different countries worldwide
- Upon completion, you are able to use the 'CSDG' designation after your name

“ The CSDG qualification expanded my knowledge on guarantees, particularly around suretyships. ”

CSDG student

90%

of students think all international trade finance organisations would benefit from more professionals taking CSDG*

Why study with us

We advance careers by equipping people with the skills and capability the sector demands, so they can perform more effectively and responsibly. The result is better professionals and corporations, performing better for customers.

Our qualifications are relevant for a range of roles and allow individuals to tailor their learning so they have the building blocks and mark of professionalism to progress with pace. We ensure our programmes are practical, flexible and focused on career development so your study reflects your career path.

We are The London Institute of Banking & Finance, **lifelong partners for financial education.**

Studying

Our qualifications are designed for distance learning, providing you with the flexibility to study at a time and pace that suits you. Your studies are supported through a range of comprehensive online and/or hardcopy learning materials. Additional learning materials will be offered dependent on the qualification.

Registration

To register, please visit the qualification page and complete the online registration form. If you have any queries, please contact our Student and Customer Services Team using the details below.

Student and Customer Services

4-9 Burgate Lane
Canterbury, Kent CT1 2XJ
customerservices@libf.ac.uk
01227 818609

Fees

For information on the latest fees associated with studying, please visit the qualification webpage.

Progression

Our qualifications are directly relevant for career paths and provide development in a number of different areas, as well as offering progression towards recognised Professional and Chartered designations. Consider your next step and view all of our Professional Qualifications at libf.ac.uk/professional-qualifications

Membership of The London Institute of Banking & Finance

Throughout your studies, you may also be interested in membership of The London Institute of Banking & Finance which is recognised worldwide as a symbol of professional excellence. Membership is optional and dependent on your level of study; there are various membership opportunities available.

Membership Benefits:

- Professional networking events
- Online communities and discussion groups
- KnowledgeBank - The London Institute of Banking & Finance's e-library
- Our industry magazine subscription
- Jobs Board
- Career support
- Access to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

libf.ac.uk/membership

libf.ac.uk/trade-finance

